

Minutes of the meeting of Bruton Patient Participation Group held at Bruton Community Hall at 12pm on 8 December 2023

1. Apologies from Virginia, Fran, Angela and Patience.
2. Introductions. The Chairman welcomed the three new members of the PPG namely Hugh Wauton, Tallula Dunford and Emily Young, Louisa McLachlan the Practice Clinical Lead also attended. Each member including the new members gave a brief resume of their backgrounds. Hugh mentioned that he was involved in Genomics and was currently involved in a company called SigniGene.
3. Previous Minutes were approved

Actions and matters arising from previous meeting:

- Surgery Signage. Following Elizabeth's contact with the owners of Patwell House the foliage which had obstructed the old sign has been cut down so that the old sign is now visible. Jane will consider the email from Somerset Council and decide whether any additional signage is required and if so at what cost.
 - Premises. Jane updated the meeting. The current proposal which is still subject to formal planning permission would be a surgery within a new development along Brewham Road. Bruton Town council has objected but notwithstanding this Somerset Council have approved it in principle but construction of the proposed new surgery still awaits input from the NHS. The current premises are totally unsuitable even if redeveloped particularly because of access.
4. Allocation of GP's to specific patients. David raised this matter as at a recent hospital appointment he queried the hospital writing to Dr Gompertz (at Bruton Surgery) as he had left some time ago. Jane and Louisa explained that it does not matter which doctor is referred to from a hospital as it is allocated as appropriate when the report or letter arrives at the surgery. Currently every patient has to be allocated to a specific doctor but that may change in the future.
 5. Practice Update. Jane referred the meeting to her 'Practice Update' paper which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. In

particular she highlighted that Dr Susie Stoneley would be increasing her sessions and there were ongoing discussions with potential new GP's.

Jane also mentioned that the Open Day went reasonably well and about 100 people attended which is far more than they expected.

In relation to response times when patients use Ask My GP sometimes the patients are not available when the practice responds to them. So it is being stressed that patients should have their mobile phones so that they can receive a call or text. There is a section where you can input your unavailable times.

Jane and Louisa highlighted the fact that if you are seriously ill you should dial 999 and not come into the practice. If the practice calls an ambulance for a patient they are deemed to be in a 'safe place' (despite the fact that the surgery does not have emergency equipment) and therefore are not prioritised in the same manner.

Jane said that the practice would no longer be carrying out blood tests where the patient is being treated privately as it is both expensive and time consuming. If a patient chooses to go privately then all aspects of that treatment should be paid for privately.

6. It was noted with great sadness that Fiona MacIntosh, the previous Chairman of Bruton PPG, died on Monday 4th December. David will write to the family on behalf of the PPG expressing our sorrow and our condolences.

7. Next Meeting – 11am on 15 March 2024 at the Bruton Community Hall.